

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Added text is underlined and deleted text is either struck through or shown in double enclosing brackets. Applicants aver that no new matter has been added.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing data, the method comprising:
initiating a discovery request from a communication device over a network;
receiving one or more responses from the discovery request from dissimilar communication
devices on the network to at least partially determine a network topography; and
transmitting data between the communication device and the dissimilar communication devices
without requiring a proxy device to enable communications, wherein said the
communication device and the dissimilar communication devices ~~communicate~~
communicating through a common interface that operates ~~in said dissimilar~~
~~communication devices~~ in accordance with aspects of ~~[[said]]~~ the communication device
and the dissimilar communication devices that have been abstracted.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the initiating of the discovery request
is performed over ~~said dissimilar communication devices form~~ a local area network
(LAN).
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising, prior to said transmitting data,
establishing a network connection between said dissimilar communication devices.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said common interface comprises a layered
functional hierarchy having multiple layers.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein at least one of said multiple layers comprises a
protocol layer, said protocol layer including at least two protocols.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said at least two protocols comprise a messaging protocol and a discovery protocol, the discovery protocol being used to initiate the discovery request.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]] 5, wherein at least one of [[said]] the multiple layers comprises an abstraction layer including [[said]] the aspects of [[said]] the dissimilar communication devices that have been abstracted.
8. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said data is transmitted between said dissimilar devices through a layer of said layered functional hierarchy.
9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein at least one of said layers comprises an operating system layer.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said operating system layer includes the capability to access components of said dissimilar devices.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data comprises at least one file.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said at least one file comprises a digital media file.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said digital media file comprises at least one of: a digital video file and a digital audio file.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said dissimilar communications devices at least include: computing devices, wherein the computing devices may be configured to exchange data by use of differing protocols, digital audio devices, remote control devices, wireless phones, and digital media devices.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said aspects of said dissimilar communications devices that have been abstracted include: controlling, executing, recording, storing, discovering, and messaging.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said dissimilar communications devices includes ~~[[the]]~~ a capability to control another of said dissimilar communications devices.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said dissimilar communications devices includes ~~[[the]]~~ a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: access digital data, execute digital data, and transfer digital data.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein at least one of said dissimilar communications devices includes the capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: store digital data, transfer digital data, and organize digital data.
19. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium including a plurality of instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, causes at least one of the one or more processors to perform a method of sharing data, the method comprising:
~~An article comprising: a storage medium, said storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that when executed, result in:~~
initiating a discovery request from a communication device over a network;
receiving one or more responses from the discovery request from dissimilar communication devices on the network to at least partially determine a network topography; and
transmitting data between the communication device and the dissimilar communication devices without requiring a proxy device to enable communications, wherein said the communication device and the dissimilar communication devices ~~communicate~~ communicating through a common interface that operates ~~in said dissimilar communication devices~~ in accordance with aspects of ~~[[said]]~~ the communication device and the dissimilar communication devices that have been abstracted.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the initiating of the discovery request ~~said dissimilar communication devices form~~ is performed over a local area network (LAN).
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: prior to said transmitting data, establishing a network connection between [[said]] the dissimilar communication devices.
22. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: said common interface comprising a layered functional hierarchy having multiple layers.
23. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of [[said]] the multiple layers comprising a protocol layer, [[said]] the protocol layer including at least two protocols.
24. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: [[said]] the at least two protocols comprising a messaging protocol and a discovery protocol, the discovery protocol being used to initiate the discovery request.
25. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim [[24]] 23, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of [[said]] the multiple layers comprising an abstraction layer including [[said]] the aspects of [[said]] the dissimilar communication devices that have been abstracted.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: [[said]] the data being transmitted between [[said]] the dissimilar devices through a layer of [[said]] the layered functional hierarchy.
27. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of [[said]] the layers comprising an operating system layer.
28. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: said operating system layer including [[the]] a capability to access components of said dissimilar devices.
29. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: [[said]] the data comprising at least one file.
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 29, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: [[said]] the at least one file comprising a digital media file.
31. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: [[said]] the digital media file comprising at least one of: a digital video file and a digital audio file.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices at least include: computing devices, wherein the computing devices may be configured to exchange data by use of differing protocols, digital audio devices, remote control devices, wireless phones, and digital media devices.
33. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: [[said]] the aspects of said dissimilar communications devices that have been abstracted including: controlling, executing, recording, storing, discovering, and messaging.
34. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices including [[the]] a capability to control another of [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices.
35. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices including [[the]] a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: access digital data, execute digital data, and transfer digital data.
36. (Currently Amended) The ~~article~~ machine-readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein [[said]] the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices including [[the]] a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: store digital data, transfer digital data, and organize digital data.

37. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a communications device having at least a discovery protocol layer to initiate a discovery request over a network, the communications device further to receive one or more responses from dissimilar communications devices over the network to at least partially determine a network topology, [[a]] the communications device further to dissimilar communication device capable of sharing share data with other dissimilar devices without requiring a proxy device to enable communications; and [[.]] wherein said a common interface to operate in the communications device and the dissimilar communication devices to allow communicate communications therebetween through a common interface that operates in said dissimilar communication devices in accordance with aspects of [[said]] the communications device and the dissimilar communication devices that have been abstracted.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein [[said]] the communications device and the dissimilar communication devices are capable of forming form a local area network (LAN).

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, and further comprising, prior to said sharing data, being capable of establishing a network connection between said dissimilar communication devices.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said common interface comprises a layered functional hierarchy having multiple layers.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein at least one of said multiple layers comprises a protocol layer, said protocol layer including at least two protocols.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein said at least two protocols comprise a messaging protocol and a discovery protocol.

43. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[42]] 41, wherein at least one of [[said]] the multiple layers comprises an abstraction layer including [[said]] the aspects of [[said]] the dissimilar communication devices that have been abstracted.
44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said data is capable of being shared between said dissimilar devices through a layer of said layered functional hierarchy.
45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein at least one of said layers comprises an operating system layer.
46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein said operating system layer includes [[the]] a capability to access components of said dissimilar devices.
47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said data comprises at least one file.
48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said at least one file comprises a digital media file.
49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said digital media file comprises at least one of: a digital video file and a digital audio file.
50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said dissimilar communications devices at least include: computing devices, wherein the computing devices may be configured to exchange data by use of differing protocols, digital audio devices, remote control devices, wireless phones, and digital media devices.
51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said aspects of said dissimilar communications devices that have been abstracted include: controlling, executing, recording, storing, discovering, and messaging.

52. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein at least one of [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices includes [[the]] a capability to control another of [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices.
53. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein at least one of [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices includes [[the]] a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: access digital data, execute digital data, and transfer digital data.
54. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein at least one of [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices includes [[the]] a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: store digital data, transfer digital data, and organize digital data.
55. (Currently Amended) A system ~~A network~~, comprising:
a network;
a communications device having at least a discovery protocol layer to initiate a discovery request over the network, the communications device further to receive one or more responses from dissimilar communications devices over the network to at least partially determine a network topology, the communications device further to share data with other dissimilar devices without requiring a proxy device to enable communications; and
a common interface to operate in the communications device and the dissimilar communication devices to allow communications therebetween in accordance with aspects of the communications device and the dissimilar communication devices that have been abstracted.
~~dissimilar communication devices capable of sharing data with other dissimilar devices, wherein the dissimilar communication devices communicate through a common interface that operates in the dissimilar communication devices in accordance with aspects of the dissimilar communication devices that have been abstracted.~~
56. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 55, wherein [[said]] the network is ~~dissimilar communication devices are capable form~~ a local area network (LAN).

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57. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 55[[, and]] further comprising, prior to [[said]] the sharing of data, being capable of establishing a network connection between [[said]] the dissimilar communication devices.
58. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 57, wherein [[said]] the common interface comprises a layered functional hierarchy having multiple layers.
59. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 58, wherein at least one of [[said]] the multiple layers comprises a protocol layer, [[said]] the protocol layer including at least two protocols.
60. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 59, wherein [[said]] the at least two protocols comprise a messaging protocol and a discovery protocol.
61. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim [[60]] 59, wherein at least one of [[said]] the multiple layers comprises an abstraction layer including [[said]] the aspects of [[said]] the dissimilar communication devices that have been abstracted.
62. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 58, wherein [[said]] the data is capable of being shared between said dissimilar devices through a layer of [[said]] the layered functional hierarchy.
63. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 58, wherein at least one of [[said]] the layers comprises an operating system layer.
64. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 63, wherein [[said]] the operating system layer includes [[the]] a capability to access components of [[said]] the dissimilar communications devices.

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65. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 55, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the data comprises at least one file.
66. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 65, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the at least one file comprises a digital media file.
67. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 66, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the digital media file comprises at least one of: a digital video file and a digital audio file.
68. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ apparatus of claim 55, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the dissimilar communications devices at least include: computing devices, wherein the computing devices may be configured to exchange data by use of differing protocols, digital audio devices, remote control devices, wireless phones, and digital media devices.
69. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 68, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the aspects of ~~[[said]]~~ the dissimilar communications devices that have been abstracted include: controlling, executing, recording, storing, discovering, and messaging.
70. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 55, wherein at least one of ~~[[said]]~~ the dissimilar communications devices includes ~~[[the]]~~ a capability to control another of ~~[[said]]~~ the dissimilar communications devices.
71. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 55, wherein at least one of ~~[[said]]~~ the dissimilar communications devices includes ~~[[the]]~~ a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: access digital data, execute digital data, and transfer digital data.
72. (Currently Amended) The ~~network~~ system of claim 71, wherein at least one of ~~[[said]]~~ the dissimilar communications devices includes ~~[[the]]~~ a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: store digital data, transfer digital data, and organize digital data.

73-112. (Canceled)